

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/821,702

Applicant(s)

FURUSE, YOSHINOBU

Examiner

Kiran B. Patel

Art Unit

3612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/24/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2 and 13-28.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>3/24/06</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Examiner's Amendment and
Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
Allowance (3/24/06)

1. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Blackman.

2. The claims and/or the application was amended to read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A door for a vehicle comprising:

a door beam;

a windowpane;

an upper inner frame having a section of C shape and located at the side of the passenger's space, said section having an opening facing away from the passenger's space; and

a lower frame, extending in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle and forming a closed section with an outer panel; wherein

the C shape section is an open structure situated between the windowpane and the passenger's space.

2. (Previously presented) A door for a vehicle according to claim 1, further comprising:

a front frame member arranged on the front side of the vehicle and a rear frame member arranged on the rear side of the vehicle, said front and rear frame members are connected by the inner frame and the lower frame.

3-12 [Canceled]

13. (Currently amended) A door for a vehicle comprising:

a windowpane;

an upper frame and a lower frame;

said upper frame is an inner frame arranged in a door body inside the vehicle, extending in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle and located at the side of the passenger's space, wherein

the inner frame includes an opening with a substantial C-shape cross section facing away from the passenger's space, extending in the longitudinal direction, and is arranged in the door body so that the opening is directed outside the vehicle; and wherein

the C-shape cross section is an open structure situated between the windowpane and the passenger's space.

14. (Currently amended) A door for a vehicle comprising

a windowpane,

a door body,

the door body including: a front frame member arranged on a front side of the vehicle; a rear frame member arranged on a rear side of the vehicle; a lower frame; and an upper inner frame located at the side of the passenger's space and connecting the front frame member with the rear frame member inside the vehicle, wherein

the upper inner frame includes an opening with a substantial C-shape cross section facing away from the passenger's space, extending in a longitudinal direction, and is arranged in the door body so that the opening is directed outside the vehicle; and wherein

the C-shape cross section is an open structure situated between the windowpane and the passenger's space.

15. (Previously presented) The door for a vehicle according to claim 13, wherein

the inner frame includes a pair of flanges extending from upper and lower portions of the inner frame toward the inside of the opening, and

a width of each flange in a vertical direction is set at $1/4$ to $1/2$ of the width in the vertical direction of a base portion which forms the corresponding upper or lower portion, and a cross section of which is C-shaped.

16. (Previously presented) The door for a vehicle according to claim 14, wherein

the inner frame includes a pair of flanges extending from upper and lower portions of the inner frame toward the inside of the opening, and

a width of each flange in a vertical direction is set at $1/4$ to $1/2$ of the width in the vertical direction of a base portion which forms the corresponding upper or lower portion, and a cross section of which is C-shaped.

17. (Previously presented) The door for a vehicle according to claim 15, wherein

a width of the inner frame in a width direction of the vehicle is set at $1/6$ to $1/1$ of a width in the vertical direction of the base portion.

18. (Previously presented) The door for a vehicle according to claim 16, wherein

a width of the inner frame in a width direction of the vehicle is set at $1/6$ to $1/1$ of a width in the vertical direction of the base portion.

19. (Previously presented) The door for a vehicle according to claim 13, wherein

a connecting portion connecting a side of the inner frame inside the vehicle with upper and lower leg portions extending from upper and lower end portions of the side toward the outside of the vehicle is curved.

20. (Previously presented) The door for a vehicle according to claim 14, wherein

a connecting portion connecting a side of the inner frame inside the vehicle with upper and lower leg portions extending from upper and lower end portions of the side toward the outside of the vehicle is curved.

21. (Previously presented) A door for a vehicle according to claim 1, wherein:

an opening of said inner frame defined by said C shape section extends in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle, is directed outside the vehicle, and expands to an open space within said inner frame,

whereby said inner frame may be deformed to provide a buffer action when an occupant of the vehicle bumps against the door so as to apply an impact force with an intensity greater than a predetermined value to the upper inner frame.

22. (Previously presented) A door for a vehicle according to claim 13, wherein:

an opening of said inner frame defined by said C shape section extends in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle, is directed outside the vehicle, and expands to an open space within said inner frame,

whereby said inner frame may be deformed to provide a buffer action when an occupant of the vehicle bumps against the door so as to apply an impact force with an intensity greater than a predetermined value to the upper inner frame.

23. (Previously presented) A door for a vehicle according to claim 14, wherein:

an opening of said inner frame defined by said C shape section extends in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle, is directed outside the vehicle, and expands to an open space within said inner frame,

whereby said inner frame may be deformed to provide a buffer action when an occupant of the vehicle bumps against the door so as to apply an impact force with an intensity greater than a predetermined value to the upper inner frame.

24. (Previously presented) A door for a vehicle according to claim 1, wherein:

said upper inner frame has an open cross section with an opening directed outside of the vehicle, whereby said inner frame may be deformed to provide a buffer action when an occupant of the vehicle bumps against the door so as to apply an impact force with an intensity greater than a predetermined value to the upper inner frame.

25. (Previously presented) A door for a vehicle according to claim 24, wherein:

said upper inner frame is located closely adjacent to a side of the door adjacent the passenger's space.

26. (Previously presented) A door for a vehicle according to claim 24, wherein:

said upper inner frame is formed of lightweight material, including at least one of aluminum alloy and magnesium alloy.

27. (Previously presented) A door for a vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the C shape section includes a base portion and the door includes a lining situated facing inwardly of the passenger's space, wherein the base portion of the C shape section is provided along a rear side of the door lining.

28. (Previously presented) A door for a vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the C shape section is adapted to deform thereby providing a buffer action property when the passenger bumps against the door inside the vehicle.


3. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for the allowance of the claims in this case, is the inclusion of the limitation "a windowpane; an upper inner frame having a section of C shape and located at the side of the passenger's space, said section having an opening facing away from the passenger's space; and a lower frame, extending in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle and forming a closed section with an outer panel; wherein

the C shape section is an open structure situated between the windowpane and the passenger's space" in the independent claim, in combination with the other recited limitations in claims supported by this application, which are not found in the prior art of record.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Primary Examiner Kiran B. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-6665. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 to 5:00. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.


Kiran B. Patel, P. E.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3612
March 24, 2006